

WAVES' BEAUTY ROUTINE

By MARY E. PARKER

"POLICE that uniform" is a familiar phrase up at Hunter College in the Bronx where in the United States Naval Training School, straggly groups of giggling schoolgirls are being turned into a clockwork body of disciplined women.

Issued in stern tones, that command means many things. It means: Straighten that tie, mend those stockings, tidy that collar—and "them's orders." In the women's Navy, a sagging hem or trailing hair is not simply a sign of careless personal habits; it is an offense against Naval regulations, and warrants punishment ranging from a demerit to discharge. By the time an apprentice seaman has completed the first five weeks of "boot school," irreproachable neatness has become almost second nature to her.

The customary feminine excuse for a disorderly appearance—"I simply don't have the time, my dear!"—is not accepted in the Navy. These busy young women, during the first few weeks of their training, arise at 5:30 in the morning and the "lights out" order comes at 9 in the evening.

The answer is efficiency. Each of these young women has planned a simple, workable beauty routine so that everything takes place with machine-shop precision. Regular hours of exercise, work and sleep are largely responsible for those glowing skins, so that soap and water cleansing and a bit of cream are all that is needed by way of upkeep.

Improvised Treatments

Improvised treatments are also part of the order of the day—many girls make a habit of assembling a comb, cologne and a handful of hairpins on the bedside table just before lights-out. Then they sit in bed and put up pin curls by dead reckoning. More elaborate treatments are provided in the Navy's own private beauty shop, which occupies an entire wing of Davis Hall.

This shipshape salon, run with military efficiency and subject to strict Navy inspection, represents a refuge and almost a recreation for the closely regimented young women of the Waves. The shop is organized to turn out 500 clients a day, and requires only 35 minutes for a shampoo, set and manicure. A seaman's time is at a premium—55 minutes being the usual extent of a free period. Occasionally one will have a "rope yarn Sunday" (which is not a Sunday at all but a recess of about three or four hours, which she may spend on the station). Then she can get a permanent wave or facial.

Writing paper is supplied by the beauty shop, and smoking is permitted there—which it isn't elsewhere.

Almost all Waves wear lipstick—they are encouraged to look as fresh and pretty as possible—and many wear nail polish, but few seem to use much makeup over their clear complexions. Marines wear the brightest shade of lip rouge—a clear poppy red to match the tassels on their caps.